

already assumed jurisdiction over *science* and the *arts*, over *education*, and *charities*, over *roads* and *canals*, and almost every other subject formerly considered as appertaining exclusively to the States, and that they claim and exercise an *unlimited control* over the appropriation of the *public lands* as well as of the *public money*. On looking indeed to the legislation of the last ten years, it is impossible to resist the conviction, that a fatal change has taken place in the whole policy and entire operation of the Federal Government—that in every one of its departments it is both in theory and practice rapidly verging towards consolidation—Asserting judicial supremacy over the Sovereign States, extending EXECUTIVE PATRONAGE and influence to the remotest ramifications of society and assuming legislative control over every object of local concernment, thereby reducing the states to petty corporations, shorn of their sovereignty, mere parts of one great whole, standing in the same relation in the Union as a county or parish to the State of which it is a subordinate part.

Such is the true character, and such the inevitable tendencies of the AMERICAN SYSTEM. And when the case thus plainly stated, is brought home to the bosoms of patriotic men, surely it is not possible to avoid the conclusion that a political system founded on such principles must bear within it the seeds of premature dissolution—and that though it may for a season be extended, enlarged, and strengthened, through the corrupting influence of patronage and power, until it shall have embraced in its serpent folds all the great interests of the State, still the time must come when the people deprived of all other means of escape, will rise up in their might and release themselves from this thralldom, by one of those violent convulsions, whereby society is uprooted from its foundations and the edict of REFORM is written in BLOOD.

Against this system South Carolina has remonstrated in the most earnest terms. As early as 1820, there was hardly a district or parish in the whole State from which memorials were not forwarded to Congress, the general language of which was that the protecting system was “utterly subversive of their rights and interests.”—Again, in 1823, and 1827, the people of this state rose up almost as one man, and declared to Congress and the world, “that the protecting system was unconstitutional, oppressive and unjust.” But these repeated remonstrances were answered only by repeated injuries and insults—by the enacting of